

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner restricted claim 30 and rejected claims 1-29. Claim 30 is cancelled herein without prejudice. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1-29 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION:

On page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserted that claim 30 was directed to a distinct invention than the claimed invention of claims 1-29. As mentioned above, claim 30 is cancelled herein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the election/restriction is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,353,461 (Shore).

The Shore video assist system is directed to non-linear editing configurations to accommodate switching from different hardware configurations. For example, near instantaneous recall and playback of newly recorded information is provided using a playback screen (150) after completion of sequencing (see, col. 5, lines 55-63, col. 14, lines 28-51 and Figs. 9 and 10). That is, Shore is limited to associating video recording segments with production information selected by a system operator and playing back particular segments subsequent to modifications by the operator (i.e., the editing processes are implemented at once).

Independent claim 1, by way of example recites, "changing a parameter value ranging from a value of a start point to a value of an end point gradually as time elapses" and "outputting the target data with the parameter value set, from said output unit." Claim 1 further recites, "establishing the parameter value when detecting the user's indication as a parameter value related to the target data." In contrast to Shore that implements edits and then uses the playback after all the edits have been completed, the invention claimed implements the change gradually. Independent claims 8, 15 and 22 recite similar features.

Independent claim 29 also recites, "adjusting a value with respect to image data or sound data based on an input parameter ranging from a value of a start point to a value of an end point gradually" and "indicating a time-based adjustment of the image data or the sound data as the value thereof is adjusted gradually."

• Shore is limited to playing back recorded video signal after editing a sequence and does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of the independent claims including "changing a parameter value... gradually as time elapses" (claims 1, 8, 15 and 22), and "indicating a time-based adjustment of the image data or the sound data as the value thereof is adjusted gradually" (claim 29).

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over Shore.

For at least the above-mentioned reasons, claims depending from the independent claims are patentably distinguishable over Shore. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 7 recites changing a parameter value and outputting target data, where "the target data are sound data" (see also claim 1, upon which claim 7 depends). Shore does not teach or suggest these features of claim 7 (see also claims 14, 21 and 28).

Applicants respectfully submit that the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness has not been met. Specifically, Shore does not teach or suggest effecting changes to "a parameter value ranging from a value of a start point to a value of an end point gradually" as taught by the claimed invention.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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